

Salem Signal

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Newsletter for May

April 26, 2021



Deadline for next newsletter articles:
May 23, 2021

Pastor's Reflections

Special points

Of interest

- Upcoming Events
- Announcements
- Birthdays

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I think I started to notice it around the end of March. We had passed the one year mark of pandemic, social distancing, masks, quarantine, etc. Which also meant that at church we passed the one year mark of disruption to our normal schedule of ministries. In the world at large (or what I could see of it from behind the mask) I could see that everyone has passed some mental or emotional point and was ready to start making steps back toward some kind of normality. Here at Salem I have to say that as a congregation you have shown great patience and grace in this last year!

I can't say we are returning to normal tomorrow, but after talking with our church leaders and staff, I think we are ready to set some goals. If (and it's a really big IF) a couple of criteria are met, we are hoping to return to a more normal schedule this coming August. What does a "more normal" schedule look like? We could return to two worship services. We could hold multiple adult Sunday School classes. We could start getting involved in more small group ministries, outreaches and missions. We wouldn't be ready for large group meals yet, but smaller groups could gather at church, homes, or restaurants to break bread together.

The rule of thumb would be large groups, where we are most likely to have visitors, would still have to practice mask wearing and social distancing. Small groups, as they feel comfortable and safe doing so, could be more open.

So what are these criteria that have to be met? The first is one that we have minimal control over. That is the progress of the pandemic in our area. The number of new Covid infections continues to go up and down. As I write this, after a brief lull in new infections, the numbers are beginning to rise again, even with people being vaccinated. The hope is that by the end of the summer, the number of new infections may be reduced to a lower, constant rate. If that is the case, we would be in a better place for going back to a more normal schedule.

The other criteria is definitely within our control. PLEASE, if you are medically able, get vaccinated soon! According to recent surveys, barely half of Georgians plan on getting vaccinated. That is not enough to provide for safe gatherings without precautions. To put it bluntly, we need a large majority of our congregation vaccinated before we can think about returning to normal.

In a sense, I have already seen you at your best. This last year has been challenging, but you have risen to the challenge with grace and faithfulness. Soon I would love to see you at your best without the Covid challenge; singing, cooking, sharing, studying, worshiping, eating, giving like you have for so many generations. I know God will honor your faithfulness through this time with an abundance of blessings this fall. Hang in there just a little longer, and I think our "new normal" will be better than ever!

God bless us,
Pastor David



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."

May Birthdays

May 1

Mike Rodock
Jarett Chriswell

May 2

Bryan Dobbs

May 5

Linda Schell
Kevin Kelley

May 6

Drew Dement

May 9

Diane Shannon

May 10

Dale Moore

May 12

Gary Bloodworth

May 14

Ann Deerman
Bobby Standard

May 15

Billy Hadaway

May 20

Macy Standard

May 24

Ashley Roberson
Aaliyah Morales

May 27

Adama Sagara

May 30

Rosalyn Austin
Sonia Lamb

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Anniversaries

May 2

Randall & Sara Ann Meadows

May 10

Bill & Susan Atkinson

May 14

Pat & Kimberly Miller

May 29

Charles & Anna Ingram

Have we
missed your
Birthday or
Anniversary?
Be sure to call
the Church
Office
and let us
know.



Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, visits and many other kindnesses over the past many months.

Debbie Anderson

Fill a Bottle for LIFE

Worth Defending.

By filling a bottle you are helping us celebrate the beauty of the lives that have been touched and saved through the ministry of our center. Money raised

in our baby bottle campaign will support the life changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men and women who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The Refuge Center
Pick up your bottle on Mother's Day, May 9 and return it on Father's Day, June 20.

Or make a donation on-line at
RefugeConvers.org/babybottle



Flower Calendar for 2021

The flower calendar for 2021 is now available. You can sign up on the website www.salemumc.org or you can call the church office. Flowers are \$38.00 and we have a standing order with a florist.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study classes will resume on April 21 with a Zoom Class at 10:00 am in the Family Life Center and an in person class at 7:00 pm.

Calling all Graduates!

If you have a family member graduating from high school or college, we want to include them in our Graduate insert on May 16. Please send a picture with information about your graduate.

Mission Project

Salem is partnering with Epiphany Lutheran Church to make gifts for Mother's Day for the 20 women at Project Renewal (women's shelter). We need the following items: Soap, Body Wash, Body Sponges, Toilet tissue, Paper towels, Witch Hazel, Individual bottled water. The deadline is May 2. Please bring to the Family Life Center on Sunday morning or you may bring by the church office. Thanks in advance for your help. If you have any questions, please see Carol Standard.

Prayer List

Shut-ins & Long Term Recovery: Al Coleman, Weston Barnette, Rosemary Breedlove, Willis Britt, Ann Deerman, Fran Enyart, Dave Kincaid, Cornelia Melton, Don & Bev Stewart, Shirley Thomas, Ethelene Thompson, Ola Vaughn, Betty Wayne

Church Family: Doris Compton, Sonia Lamb, Dale & Glenn Moore, Andy Peabody, Joe Peabody, Jr.

Friends & Family: Karen Miley, Kathryn Wilder